

Serial No.: 10/801,125

PD030031

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Amendments to the Claims

Please **rewrite** claims 1 and 9 as indicated.

1. (Currently Amended) Method for driving display means having a predefined display area for displaying a video image being smaller than the display area in order to suppress the marking effect and to limit ~~the a~~ disturbing effect of active sidebars in unused display sections, comprising the steps of
providing a video signal for displaying a video image being smaller than said display area, so that one or more unused display sections remain on the display area, and
driving said one or more unused display sections with at least one predetermined signal,
wherein said at least one predetermined signal is computed on the basis of one or more analysing areas within said display area directly abutting on said one or more unused areas and wherein said at least one predetermined signal is computed ~~by evaluating the quantity of similar brightness level in said analysing areas and by~~ selecting a brightness level according to a significant quantity at which one brightness level ~~occur~~ occurs in said analysing area abutting on said one or more unused areas in order to suppress the marking effect and to limit the disturbing effect of the unused display sections.

2. (Original) Method according to claim 1 wherein said unused sections include sidebars.

- 3-4. (Cancelled).

Serial No.: 10/801,125

PD030031

5. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 1 wherein said at least one predetermined signal is computed by evaluating a histogram of brightness values of said analysing areas concerning the quantity at which a brightness value occurs in said analysing areas.
6. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein said at least one predetermined signal is determined by applying a threshold to a histogram of brightness values in order to obtain a significant part of a histogram and taking a medium brightness value of said significant part representing the highest quantity at which a brightness value occurs in the histogram for said at least one predetermined signal.
7. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein the brightness of said at least one predetermined signal is limited to a maximum brightness below the maximum practical brightness of luminous elements of said display means.
8. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein the brightness of said at least one predetermined signal is corrected by a predetermined factor.
9. (Currently Amended) Device for driving display means having a predefined display area for displaying a video image being smaller than the display area in order to suppress the marking effect and to limit the a disturbing effect of active sidebars in unused display sections comprising:
 - determining means for determining one or more unused display sections remaining on the display area when driving said display means with a predetermined video signal and
 - driving means connected to said determining means for

Serial No.: 10/801,125

PD030031

driving said one or more unused display sections with at least one predetermined signal, and

analysing means connected to said driving means for analysing one or more analysing areas within said display area to compute said at least one predetermined signal by ~~evaluating the quantity of similar brightness level in said one or more analysing areas directly abutting on said one or more unused areas and~~ selecting a brightness level according to a significant quantity at which one brightness level ~~occur~~ occurs in said analysing area abutting on said one or more unused areas in order to suppress the marking effect and to limit the disturbing effect of the unused display sections.

10. (Original) Device according to claim 9 wherein said unused sections include sidebars.

11-12. (Cancelled).

13. (Previously Presented) Device according to claim 9 wherein said analysing means is capable of forming a histogram of brightness values of one of said analysing areas for computing said at least one predetermined signal concerning the quantity at which a brightness value occurs in said analysing areas.

14. (Previously Presented) Device according to claim 13, wherein said analysing means is capable of applying a threshold to said histogram in order to obtain a significant part of the histogram and taking a medium brightness value of said significant part representing the highest quantity at which a brightness value occurs in the histogram for said at least one predetermined signal.

Serial No.: 10/801,125

PD030031

15. (Original) Device according to claim 9 wherein said driving means is capable of limiting the brightness of said at least one predetermined signal to a maximum brightness below the maximum practical brightness of the luminous elements of said display means.
16. (Original) Device according to claim 9 wherein said driving means is capable of correcting the brightness of said at least one predetermined signal by a predetermined factor.
17. (Previously Presented) Device according to claim 9, wherein the significant quantity at which a brightness level occurs in a present video signal for displaying a video image in said analysing area abutting on said one or more unused areas in order to suppress the marking effect and to limit the disturbing effect of the unused display sections corresponds to the mid value of the brightness distribution of the video signal for displaying a video image in said analysing area abutting on said one or more unused areas.
18. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein the significant quantity at which a brightness level occurs in a present video signal for displaying a video image in said analysing area abutting on said one or more unused areas in order to suppress the marking effect and to limit the disturbing effect of the unused display sections corresponds to the mid value of the brightness distribution of the video signal for displaying a video image in said analysing area abutting on said one or more unused areas.